



For Immediate Release

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Florida House Passes Legislation to Protect Infants Born Alive

Tallahassee, Fla.—Today, by a vote of 119-0, the Florida House of Representatives unanimously passed CS/CS/CS/HB 1129, creating Florida’s Born Alive Law to protect infants who are born alive during an attempted abortion.

“As a doctor, I understand the importance of protecting the sanctity of life. Every infant born alive, regardless of the manner of birth, has a right to receive the appropriate care available to them by present healthcare professionals. This legislation sets clear guidelines for the care of these infants as soon as they are born and ensures that they are provided all of the protections they deserve,” said State Representative Cary Pigman (R-Avon Park), sponsor of the bill.

This legislation provides that an infant born alive during an attempted abortion is entitled to the same rights, powers and privileges as any child born in the course of natural birth. According to the bill, the health care practitioner present must provide medical care that is appropriate for the gestational age of the infant and ensure that the infant is subsequently transported to a hospital for continued care. Known violations of the duty to treat and transport an infant born alive must be reported to the Department of Health. This bill also makes it a first degree misdemeanor for failing to treat any infant born alive or to comply with any other requirements established under this legislation.

“This legislation aims to protect the most fragile and innocent citizens of our state. Every child born alive deserves a fighting chance, and this legislation will ensure that they get that chance in our state. Our healthcare professionals have a duty to provide appropriate care to the living infants they birth and this legislation will hold them accountable to doing so,” said House Majority Leader Steve Precourt (R-Orlando). “I commend all of my colleagues in the House for standing up today to protect Florida’s most vulnerable infants.”

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Representative Steve Precourt, Majority Leader

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